

STAFFORD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 5, 2009

Call to Order. A regular meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission was called to order by Anita Dodd, at 3:10 P.M., Thursday, November 5, 2009 in Conference Room ABC, Stafford County Administration Center.

Roll Call. The following members were present: Anita Dodd, Chairperson; Barbara Kirby, Vice Chairperson; Jane Conner, Frank White. Ann Best-Rolls and Cessie Howell, Secretary were absent.

Also in attendance were: Kathy Baker, Assistant Director, Planning and Zoning; Terry Baxley Morton, Commission Clerk.

Presentations by the Public. No members of the public were in attendance.

Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes. Approval of the September 3, 2009 and October 5, 2009 Commission meeting minutes.

Barbara Kirby motioned, seconded by Frank White to approve the September 3, 2009 and the October 5, 2009 Commission meeting minutes as submitted.

The Voting Commission Tally was:

Yea: (4) Conner, Dodd, Kirby, White

Nay: (0)

Absent: (2) Best-Rolls, Howell

- Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the Naming of the Courthouse Road CSX Bridge.

Anita Dodd said that Commission members received information regarding the Board of Supervisor's desire to obtain recommendations from the Historical Commission on naming the Courthouse Road CSX Bridge located at the eastern end of the road. She said she believes the Board's thought is to choose a family name from that particular area. She asked Commission members for ideas.

Barbara Kirby said she reviewed her files and discovered the names Dent and Lowery an old name that has been in the area a long time. In addition, the names Schooler and Montague appeared in her files as older names of people that reside in the area.

Kathy Baker previously sent an e-mail to Commission members containing the names Payne, Watson and Jones, which were mentioned by the Board.

Frank White mentioned the names Crismond, Hamm and Jackson from the area.

Anita Dodd said the Commission could suggest a combination name.

Frank White said he knows people that reside in that area. He asked them for input since he does not reside there. He said the residents came up with the name Mingles Hill. Evidently the oncoming hill before the bridge has been called Mingles Hill for many years. He said residents there gave him a petition containing 44 names in favor of naming the bridge the Mingles Hill Bridge.

Anita Dodd was impressed with the idea and asked if it is a family name from the area.

Jane Conner was reading some names from the petition including the Jacksons, Paynes and others.

Anita Dodd said she would like to find out more about the meaning of the name Mingles Hill.

Frank White said he didn't know where the name Mingles Hill originated. He spoke with a gentleman in his eighties who said the area has been called that since he can remember. Frank White said he wasn't able to establish how the name was started but it is important to the area.

Anita Dodd said she thought they should go with the voice of the people in the area, they are the residents.

Kathy Baker asked about the Montagues. Barbara Kirby said she thought the Montagues had moved from the area.

Frank White said the store, called Winkler's Corner, where the lodge is was one of the family names in the area at one time.

The Commission all agreed that naming the CSX Bridge the Mingles Hill Bridge was appropriate. Members of the Commission said the fact that the residents went to the trouble to have a petition signed was impressive.

Barbara Kirby and the members of the Commission thanked Frank White personally for his efforts in receiving the petition and expressing the importance to all of the local residents since it is their area.

Jane Conner asked if the name had an apostrophe s.

Anita Dodd said the petition did not have an apostrophe s. She said they will try to conduct research to find out more about the name, Mingles Hill, and its significance.

Anita Dodd read the petition summary background aloud. The petition referred to "we the residents of Stafford who live east of Winkler's Corner on Courthouse Road".

Anita Dodd said she wonders if Mingles Hill is on the historic map. Barbara Kirby said to the best of her knowledge it is not on the Scheele map.

Kathy Baker said Commission members may recommend an additional name to the Board if they feel strongly about another name as well.

Anita Dodd said she really thinks this is a show of the community and illustrates that they feel very strongly about the area. She said she is of the feeling that the Commission should present the name as their choice along with the petition. She said when it appears on the Board's meeting agenda residents may attend the meeting and speak on its behalf.

Barbara Kirby suggested the residents contact Supervisor Paul Milde as it is in the Aquila District.

Frank White said that is the intention of the residents.

Barbara Kirby motioned, seconded by Jane Conner to submit Mingles Hill Bridge to the Board of Supervisors as their recommendation for the naming of the CSX Bridge.

The Voting Commission Tally was:

Yea: (4) Conner, Dodd, Kirby, White

Nay: (0)

Absent: (2) Best-Rolls, Howell

Commission members thanked Frank White again for his efforts.

- Continue Revising The Historic Preservation Award Process.

Jane Conner said she and Cessie Howell have been working on the project. She said Cessie Howell had to be out of town at the time of this Commission meeting.

- Complete and Finalize the Revision of the Phase I Portion of Proposed Ordinance 006-47 dated July 18, 2006 to Present to the Board of Supervisors Regarding Archaeological Surveys and Investigations.

Anita Dodd asked Commission members if everyone received a revised copy of the ordinance. She said the Commission needs to decide if everyone agrees with the revisions and how to move forward.

Kathy Baker said Jeff Harvey, Director, Planning and Zoning wanted to convey to the Commission members that they may desire to defer presenting the revised ordinance to the Board until later in January as there will be new members on the Board and they will be working with the ordinance. She said he suggested rather than sending this forward as a recommendation to having a public presentation and try to schedule a work-shop with the Board first. Kathy Baker said that allows the Commission and staff to go through the background of the ordinance and explain what the proposals are. The Commission highly agreed with the suggestion. Kathy Baker said the Commission could forward the subject as a - Work Session - Discussion Item - before taking any action if they prefer. Barbara Kirby said that would enable the Commission to explain any changes and Anita Dodd said to explain the history behind the ordinance as well. Again, the Commission highly agreed.

Barbara Kirby asked Kathy Baker to thank Jeff Harvey for his input on the subject.

Discussion ensued.

Kathy Baker gave a suggestion for possibly gaining support for the ordinance by offering some sort of incentives; for example an A-1 Agricultural Zone requires a certain amount of open space be maintained. If someone sets aside an area for preservation of cultural resources they may receive a reduction on the amount of open space they are required to have, a trade off making them more willing to participate. She said this is a thought, and if the County receives opposition to this ordinance how can staff make the requirements more palatable.

Barbara Kirby said the County is one of the last counties in the area to implement an ordinance of this nature. She said this is what brings in new people to work on preservation and brings in heritage tourism. She said the County has already lost so many things. She said preservation includes dinosaurs, Indians all the way to present day not just the Civil War.

Previously Jane Conner, outside of the meeting, in talking with Cessie Howell and Ann Best-Rolls mentioned and agreed a staff archeologist would benefit the County.

Anita Dodd said a staff archeologist would deal with County properties and would basically act as the Historic Preservation Planner helping coordinate subjects and issues with developers. She said she hopes the Commission will move forward on this and not give up, it is certainly a worth while effort and it is something that this County needs and has needed for a long time. Other counties have been able to work this out and have it as part of the plan for their community. The Commission can work on any adjustments and incentives needed to amend the ordinance, and will continue next meeting.

Report by Commission Chairperson. Anita Dodd said the article regarding cemeteries written by Arch Di Peppe, Vice Chairman, Planning Commission, to the Free Lance-Star newspaper has had great results. Usually information regarding cemeteries in the newspaper will generate a couple of calls from citizens, this article generated 10-15 calls. She said one of the calls was from an individual that she and two other volunteers took to five cemeteries, as a result he has agreed to adopt two of them for maintenance. Anita Dodd spoke to a Boy Scout Master that is seeking a Scout project for his Boy Scout Troop to take over the long term maintenance of a couple of cemeteries.

Anita Dodd said there is a meeting by VDOT at the Falmouth Baptist Church on Thursday, November 12th at 1:00 PM regarding the Falmouth Historic District. She is a consulting party on the district. She said the letter regarding the meeting is from the Federal Transportation Authority which is apparently the group that has taken over the boundaries of the Historic District. She said the State requested the Falmouth Historic District include Carlton, Belmont, Chatham, the Cotton Warehouse and Clearview as the four corners. Anita Dodd said they have an alternative plan for the Falmouth Intersection, widening the street to create more turn lanes rather than a flyover.

Discussion ensued.

Reports by Commission Members. Jane Conner said she and Barbara Kirby were working with a Boy Scout on the sign for the Robertson-Towson House. He wanted to install two signs, one by the house and the other by the Towson Quarry. She said the sign is not by the Towson Oxen Trail it's on the main road. Barbara Kirby said he had mentioned putting it on the trail so that people walking on the trail could see it. However, the Boy Scout said people cannot see it there so it was placed by the road. Jane Conner said she would much prefer the sign located closer to the quarry.

Adjournment. At 4:00 P.M., the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Anita Dodd – Chairperson

Barbara Kirby – Vice Chairperson